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101ST CONGRESS
2d Session

SENATE

REPORT
101-245

AUTHORIZING THE COLONIAL DAMES AT GUNSTON HALL TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL TO GEORGE MASON IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FEBRUARY 28 (legislative day, JANUARY 23), 1990.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. FORD, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1543]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, having considered S. 1543, a bill to authorize the Colonial Dames at Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to George Mason in the District of Columbia, reports favorably thereon with an amendment to the text and an amendment to the title and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND OF THE BILL

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize an addition to an existing legislatively-established commemorative work in the District of Columbia, the George Mason Memorial Bridge (the southbound span of the 14th Street Bridge), which was authorized by Public Law 86-86 on July 13, 1959. Such addition would be accomplished without cost to the Federal government and in accordance with Public Law 99-652 (40 U.S.C. 1001, et seq.) (the "Commemorative Works Act").

S. 1543 was introduced by Senator Robb on August 4, 1989 and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. A hearing on the measure was held on February 22, 1990. Senator Robb introduced the witnesses: Virginia State Senator Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr. and Ms. Mary Lee Link Allen, the assistant director of Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason.

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The National Capital Planning Commission reviewed the bill and reported in their letter to the Committee dated February 13, 1990, that they have no objections to the project at this time.

Subsequently, the Committee received a report on the findings of the National Capital Memorial Commission at its hearing on this measure, held on February 22, 1990. At that hearing Ms. Allen testified that the bridge was not recognizable as a memorial to George Mason and that the sponsoring organization would like to erect a structure on land near the bridge. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend the measure favorably, but noted that further legislative action would be required if the District of Columbia end of the bridge were chosen for the addition and not the Virginia side.

The letters received by the Committee from the National Capitol Planning Commission and the National Capital Memorial Commission are set forth below.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION,
Washington, DC, February 13, 1990.

In reply refer to: NCPC File No. L10101.

Hon. WENDELL H. FORD,
Chairman, Committee on Rules and Administration,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FORD: We have reviewed S. 1543, a bill to authorize the Colonial Dames at Gunston Hall to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor George Mason. For your information, there is an existing memorial to this Revolutionary War statesman in the District of Columbia. P.L. 86-86 designated the current southbound span of the 14th Street Bridge as George Mason Memorial Bridge in 1959.

At this stage of the project's development, the Commission has no objections or comments to offer. We are pleased that consistency with the Commemorative Works Act is specified in the proposed legislation.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. GRESHAM
(For Reginald W. Griffith,
Executive Director).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION,
Washington, DC, February 23, 1990.

Hon. WENDELL H. FORD,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration,
Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FORD: This is in response to your request for a report on the findings of the National Capital Memorial Commission's hearing on H.R. 1543, a bill to authorize the Colonial Dames of Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to George Mason in the

District of Columbia, which was held on February 22, 1990. The Commission appreciates the opportunity you have provided by granting an extended comment period to us in order that we could meet as a body with Ms. Mary Lee Link Allen, representing the Colonial Dames of Gunston Hall, and properly review H.R. 1543 as mandated under law.

The Commission voted unanimously to recommend the legislation favorably to the Secretary and to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

Ms. Allen presented testimony on behalf of the Colonial Dames of Gunston Hall. The Commission discussed with Ms. Allen the various aspects of the proposal. Unlike other memorial proposals which come before this body for review, this has a direct relationship to a previous, legislatively-established commemorative work, the George Mason Memorial Bridge, which was authorized on July 13, 1959, by Public Law 86-86 (copy enclosed).

Ms. Allen said she did not feel that the bridge provided the opportunity to erect an appropriate memorial to George Mason, and that it was not recognizable as such to the visitor at present. Her organization had originally intended to place a plaque or bust along the bridge, but felt that there are no appropriate locations on the bridge which would not impose or conflict with the existing traffic signs. Her organization then turned their attention to the "flank" of the bridge, and has decided that a memorial on land near the bridge would be appropriate.

The Commission, governed by the Commemorative Works Act, noted that additional legislation would be required by Congress under that Act if the flank in the District of Columbia were chosen (under Area I as identified in the Act (Sec. 2(e); Sec. 6(a)), and that no further legislative action would be required if the flank on the Virginia side were chosen (identified as Area II under Sec. 2(e); Sec. 6(a)). It was further noted, as George Mason was born in Virginia and figured significantly in that state's history as well as that of the Nation, that an addition to the George Mason Memorial Bridge on the Virginia side might also be the most fitting and appropriate course of action.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. David Sherman on my staff if we may be of any further assistance. Mr. Sherman may be reached on 426-7704.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. PARSONS,
Chairman, National Capital Memorial Commission.

[H.R. 5534; Public Law 86-86; 73 Stat. 196]

GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL BRIDGE—DESIGNATION

AN ACT To designate the bridge to be constructed over the Potomac River near Fourteenth Street in the District of Columbia, under the Act of July 16, 1946, as the George Mason Memorial Bridge, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the bridge to be constructed over the Potomac River from a point near Fourteenth Street in the District of Co-

lumbia to a point in Virginia, under authority of the Act entitled "An Act authorizing and directing the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to construct two four-lane bridges to replace the existing Fourteenth Street or Highway Bridge across the Potomac River, and for other purposes", approved July 16, 1946 (60 Stat. 566), shall be known and designated as the "George Mason Memorial Bridge". Any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States in which such bridge is referred to shall be held to refer to such bridge as the "George Mason Memorial Bridge".

SEC. 2. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia shall—

(1) place on the George Mason Memorial Bridge a name plaque of suitable and appropriate design; and

(2) in connection with the opening of such bridge to the public, provide for suitable ceremonies honoring George Mason, the American statesman of the Revolutionary War period from the State of Virginia, who drafted the renowned Virginia Declaration of Rights which became the basis for the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

Approved July 13, 1959.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On February 27, 1990, the Committee on Rules and Administration held a markup session on S. 1543. Two amendments to S. 1543 were adopted: (a) the title was amended to read, "A bill to authorize the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to George Mason in the District of Columbia"; and (b) in Section 1(a) of the text of the bill, "Board of Regents of" was inserted in place of "Colonial Dames at".

After discussion, S. 1543, as amended, was passed unanimously by a record vote and was ordered reported favorably by the Committee.

COMMITTEE ROLLCALL VOTE

In compliance with paragraph 7 (b) and (c) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the record of the rollcall vote in the Committee on Rules and Administration during its consideration of S. 1543, as amended, to report it favorably was as follows:

YEAS (10)	NAYS (0)
Mr. Ford	
Mr. Byrd	
Mr. Inouye	
Mr. DeConcini	
Mr. Gore	
Mr. Stevens	
Mr. McClure	
Mr. Helms	
Mr. Garn	
Mr. McConnell	

Chairman Ford cast a proxy for Senator Dodd in support of the motion.

COST ESTIMATE

In accordance with paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee does not consider that enactment of S. 1543, as amended, would entail any cost to the Federal government.

REGULATORY IMPACT

In accordance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee does not consider that enactment of S. 1543, as amended, would have any regulatory impact.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee considers that the bill proposes no changes in existing law.

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